

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

MAY 12, 2008

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Chairman Stephen Sangle followed by a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Andrew Abdul, Gillian Hemstead, Douglas Ott, Irene Smith, Bernie Stapleton, Alternate David Watson Hollowell (7:40 p.m.), Chairman Stephen Sangle, Planning Director William Drew; GIS Specialist Robert Sparkes.

Absent: Mary Ellen Gabay, Timothy Metcalf.

The Chairman asked David Watson Hollowell to sit in for Tim Metcalf.

APPLICATIONS - None.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS – None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

West Milford Lakes-ANJEC Grant: Gillian Hemstead reported that the Township Council reviewed the draft project report at a prior Council meeting and it was very well received. The Council voted to approve Plan A, the plan the Environmental Commission had recommended. She indicated that they will also look into contacting the current owner to explore the option of taking ownership of the site. The Chairman commented on the current owner being responsible for maintenance and cost of the dam breaching. Rob Sparkes noted that an inspection of the dam would occur every four years. Soil erosion issues that may result will be the responsibility of the Bureau of Dam Safety for one year. Mr. Sparkes advised that monitoring will be necessary for possible influx of phosphorous following the dam breaching. He noted that members of the Greenwood Lake Commission were present at the Council meeting and they expressed concerns about silt and phosphorous. He also noted that Kerry Miller from ANJEC was present and was pleased with the way the project had progressed. The WM Lake project may be used in an article in an upcoming issue of their quarterly magazine. He advised that the grant is complete and the report would be submitted that week. The Commission discussed potential liability for the current West Milford Lake owner and Ms. Hemstead noted that this was echoed by the Township Attorney at the Council meeting. William Drew advised the Commission that this property should be pursued for Open Space acquisition, and he followed with an explanation of the process, which included two appraisals of the property, among other requirements.

604(b) OWTS Grant: Rob Sparkes reported that progress on this was slow but moving forward. He was preparing for a presentation to the NJDEP.

2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation 319H Grant: Rob Sparkes noted that there was nothing new to report at this time.

Streetscape Grant: Mr. Drew and Mr. Sparkes reported on the Streetscape grant, noting that there were two parts to this grant that is overseen by the Office of Smart Growth: one for design, and one for soft costs. The Planning Board's Building Design Subcommittee met twice and a report is being put together, which will be presented by the Subcommittee to the Planning Board. A report will come back to Environmental Commission. Mr. Drew advised that surveying for the streetscape had been ongoing and a report and plan would be submitted to the Township upon completion. He noted that Rob Sparkes would be following up on this project with the Township Engineer. Mr. Drew explained that initially the project was to include a complete streetscape design and implementation that included trees, benches, sidewalks, street lights, etc., but the project was scaled down to include only the concept design plan and the installation of sidewalks at the present time. The design being completed by Dewberry would include all phases that could be implemented as the funds became available. The Commission discussed various aspects of the project and the pros and cons of completing it in phases. Mr. Drew advised that

Walgreen's will install the complete design for their site, and this will be the template for the entire town center area.

Urban Forestry Grants: Rob Sparkes reported that approval was given for reimbursement for this grant, and there are two steps remaining before receiving the funds.

Smart Growth Planning Grant Program 2008: Nothing new to report.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Community Forestry Plan: Nothing new to report.

Energy Committee: Doug Ott advised that there was nothing much to report on. He noted that the Energy Committee was frustrated with the Council's indecision on this matter. The Commissioners discussed the lack of progress on this crucial issue. The Chairman asked for and received a consensus for a letter to go to the Township Council inquiring what their intentions are, especially with the high cost of fuel. The Commission strongly recommends that the Township Council move forward with a plan.

Lakes Committee: Irene Smith reported that the Lakes Committee discussed encroachment on the lake bottom, the septic ordinance, and onsite wastewater treatment systems at their last meeting. The Chairman commented that he saw a notice in the newspapers advising proper fertilizer use and inquired who was monitoring this. Rob Sparkes noted that the Health Department was in charge of this and he will get in contact with them for an update.

Septic Maintenance: Gillian Hemstead reported that the draft is not yet complete, but she will complete it as soon as possible.

Wetland Mitigation Project: Mr. Sparkes reported that the project is complete and he will follow up. The Chairman commented on a brochure he had on glass cases for signage used in environmental areas.

Open Space Committee: Mr. Ott advised that there was nothing new to report. Mr. Drew noted that a Mrs. Ann Gallman offered the Township a 30 – 40-acre parcel near the Sheridan tract and he advised that it was within the greenbelt and would be a good purchase for the Township. He also commented that the County is looking for grant applicants and the Commission may want to combine this with the West Milford Lake tract as part of the County grant for Open Space. Mr. Drew advised that a memo could be sent to the Council requesting that these properties be considered for Open Space acquisition. Bernie Stapleton and Doug Ott agreed to meet and walk the site prior to submitting a recommendation for acquisition. Also noted was a Passaic County Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee Application, Guidelines and Rules and Regulations packet that was received April 15, 2008; deadline is Thursday, June 26, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

Rob Sparkes and David Watson Hallowell reported on the GreenFest. There were approximately 500 visitors. Mr. Sparkes, Irene Smith and Andy Abdul disseminated information on behalf of the Environmental Commission. It was a successful venture and organizers are looking to do this annually.

Autumn Lights Festival

Chairman Sangle brought a "shower timer" to the Commission and asked for consensus on ordering these gadgets for distribution at the Autumn Lights Festival. The cost would be approximately \$475.00 for 200 units. He indicated that the M.U.A. and Sustainable West Milford may help with the purchase.

Mr. Drew advised that a copy of an application was received March 18, 2008 from Civil Dynamics for Gordon Lakes Dam regarding a GP #18 for rehabilitation of the dam. He noted that it was similar to the Pinecliff Lake dam repair and assessment.

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT - *The following was noted and filed:*

Notice from Frank and Charles Decker regarding Application for highlands Applicability Determination, received March 27, 2008.

Notice of Highlands Applicability Determination Application by Awosting Association, Inc. regarding property at Block 4106; Lot 1, 99 Long Pond Road, Hewitt.

Notification from the NJDEP regarding Withdrawal of Application for Highlands Applicability Determination and Water Quality Management Plan consistency Determination for Block 5307; Lot 11.04, Ridge Road, for Randall Vreeland.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - *The following was noted and filed:*

Agency Determination dated April 16, 2008 from the NJ DEP regarding the Jaust Site Plan, 96 Oak Ridge Road, Block 16005; Lot 12 – Highlands Act – Exemption #4, Water Quality Management Plan - Consistent.

Notice of application to NJDEP from Awosting Association Inc. received April 29, 2008 for Block 4105; Lot 1 for Highlands Determination.

Highlands Applicability Determination application received on April 8, 2008 from LAN Associates for Christian Life Center parking lot resurfacing.

CORRESPONDENCE – *The following was noted and filed:*

Letter and application dated April 21, 2008 to Kathleen Caren, P.C. Open Space Coordinator, requesting reimbursement for funds expended on Environmental Boardwalk.

Letter to Passaic County Planning Board from the Township Administrator dated March 14, 2008 regarding Open Space properties, asking to be apprised of future acquisitions.

Revised plans from Board of Adjustment for 1952 Union Valley Road - Use Variance, Site Plan, and Bulk Variance Application received April 14, 2008.

The Record newspaper article dated April 25, 2008 regarding Water-quality measures and fertilizer regulations.

MINUTES – To be available for adoption at the June meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

Mr. Hallowell asked for consensus from the Commission that all copying be double-sided in an effort to conserve paper. The Commissioners concurred.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Drew advised the Environmental Commission that he had resigned from his position with the Township, and he thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work with them and for all their efforts. He stated that the Environmental Commission has a good vision for the future of West Milford, and they had undertaken whatever was necessary to accomplish their goals as they persevered to do what was right for the Township. The Chairman commented that Mr. Drew will be sorely missed and thanked him for all his efforts.

The Chairman announced that the meeting in June would be rescheduled from June 2 to June 9. The Secretary will do noticing.

ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Commission meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Approved: July 7, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby
Secretary